

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend Claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 18, 20, 21, 22, and 23. Please cancel Claim 5 and add new Claims 24-28. Claims 14-17 have been withdrawn. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A mattress comprising:
  - a head end;
  - a foot end;
  - a first side and a second side; and
  - a center region traversing the mattress from the head end to the foot end, the center region including one or more materials that mitigate the emergence of a center ridge over repeated uses of the mattress, the center region having a width of between about two inches and about twelve inches.
2. (Original) The mattress of claim 1 wherein the center region is separated by an approximately equal distance from the first side and the second side.
3. (Original) The mattress of claim 1 wherein the mattress is a queen size mattress.
4. (Original) The mattress of claim 1 wherein the mattress is a king size mattress.
5. (Canceled).
6. (Currently Amended) The mattress of claim 1 wherein the center region has a firmness ~~reduced by about ten percent to about thirty percent~~ or increased relative to other regions of the mattress.
7. (Currently Amended) The mattress of claim 1 wherein the mattress includes a quilted material over a sleeping surface thereof, the quilted material having a firmness in the center

region reduced or increased ~~by about ten percent to about thirty percent~~ relative to other regions of the mattress.

8. (Currently Amended) The mattress of claim 1 wherein the mattress includes an upholstery material over a sleeping surface thereof, the upholstery material having a firmness in the center region reduced or increased ~~by about ten percent to about thirty percent~~ relative to other regions of the mattress.

9. (Currently Amended) The mattress of claim 1 wherein the mattress includes a core, the core having a firmness in the center region reduced or increased ~~by about ten percent to about thirty percent~~ relative to other regions of the mattress.

10. (Original) The mattress of claim 9 wherein the core includes a plurality of open coil springs.

11. (Original) The mattress of claim 9 wherein the core includes a plurality of pocket coil springs.

12. (Original) The mattress of claim 9 wherein the core includes foam.

13. (Original) The mattress of claim 12 wherein the foam is viscoelastic foam.

14. (Withdrawn) A box spring configured for use with another box spring to support a mattress, the box spring comprising:

- a head end;

- a foot end;

- an outer side configured to support an edge of a mattress above the box spring; and

- an inner side configured to abut a second box spring beneath a center region of the mattress, the inner side having a firmness reduced by about ten percent to about thirty percent relative to the outer side.

15. (Withdrawn) A second box spring for use with the box spring of claim 14, wherein the box spring and the second box spring may be placed side by side to present a support surface to a mattress, the support surface having a center region along the inner side of the box spring and an inner side of the second box spring with a firmness reduced by about ten percent to about thirty percent relative to the outer side of the box spring and an outer side of the second box spring.

16. (Withdrawn) The box spring of claim 14 wherein the box spring has a core including one or more open coil springs.

17. (Withdrawn) The box spring of claim 14 wherein the box spring has a core including one or more pocket coil springs.

18. (Currently Amended) A mattress comprising:

a head end;

a foot end;

a first side and a second side; and

a center region traversing the mattress from the head end to the foot end, the center region including one or more materials having a firmness reduced or increased ~~by about ten percent to about thirty percent~~ relative to other regions of the mattress, the center region having a width of between about two inches and about twelve inches.

19. (Original) The mattress of claim 18 wherein the center region is separated by an equal distance from the first side and the second side.

20. (Currently Amended) A mattress comprising:

a head end;

a foot end;

a first side and a second side;

a center region separated from the first side and the second side and traversing the mattress from the head end to the foot end, the center region having a width of between about two inches and about twelve inches; and

a compensation means for reducing or increasing a firmness of the center region ~~by about ten percent to about thirty percent~~ relative to other regions of the mattress.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a mattress, the method comprising:  
constructing a first region and a second region of one or more materials having a first firmness, the first region and the second region being configured to provide a sleeping surface to one or more users of the mattress; and

constructing a center region between the first region and the second region, the center region being constructed of one or more materials that together have a second firmness ~~less different~~ than the first firmness, the center region having a width of between about two inches and about twelve inches.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein the second firmness is reduced or increased ~~by about ten percent to about thirty percent~~ relative to the first firmness.

23. (Currently Amended) A mattress comprising:

a head end;

a foot end;

a first side and a second side; and

a center region traversing the mattress from the head end to the foot end, the center region including one or more adjustable members controllable to adjust the center region in response to an emerging center ridge, the center region having a width of between about two inches and about twelve inches.

24. (New) The mattress of claim 1 wherein the one or more materials that mitigate the emergence of a center ridge are included in a upper surface of the mattress.

25. (New) The mattress of claim 18 wherein the one or more materials having a firmness reduced or increased relative to other regions of the mattress are included in a upper surface of the mattress.

26. (New) The mattress of claim 20 wherein the compensation means of the center region is included in a upper surface of the mattress.

27. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the one or more materials are included in a upper surface of the mattress.

28. (New) The mattress of claim 23 wherein the one or more adjustable members are included in a upper surface of the mattress.